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Terrain Properties and Topography from

Skylab Altimetry

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The corrected satellite altimeter range measurements of pass 1 (SL-2 GT-20) for those frames which satisfied the assumed tracker lock criteria (lock indicator 0, monotonic increase of noise, ramp and plateau gates, standard range variations < 50 m) were converted to topographic height and compared with topographic heights obtained from geological survey maps for the The results indicate that in general there is good same areas. correlation between the heights and that discrepancies are due to rapid changes of height and/or amplitude which cannot be followed by the range tracker and the AGC loop.

The SL-2 topographic data analysis will be completed by the next reporting period and investigation of physical properties from SL-2 radar return characteristics will be initiated.

New data from the SL-3 mission were received and a preliminary analysis shows that possibly five out of the 6 passes that were received will provide useful altimeter data.